United Nations S/2017/197

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 7 March 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey herewith a report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on "the status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya" (see annex). The report, dated 24 February 2017, covers the period from 23 January to 22 February 2017.

The report was prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of 20 July 2016 and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of 20 July 2016 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 23 January to 22 February 2017 and meets the reporting requirements set out in Executive Council decisions EC-M-52/DEC.2 of 27 July 2016 and EC-M-53/DEC.1 of 26 August 2016.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya

1. At its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision on the "Destruction of Libya's Remaining Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016) and requested the Director-General to assist Libya in developing a modified plan of destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. On 22 July 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2298 (2016), welcoming and endorsing the decision by the Council and requesting the Director-General, through the Secretary-General, to report to the Security Council on a regular basis until the destruction is complete and verified.

2. At the conclusion of its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016). In operative paragraph 17 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General to report to the Council on a monthly basis on the implementation of the decision. This sixth monthly report covers the period from 23 January to 22 February 2017.

Progress in the elimination of Libyan chemical weapons by the State Party hosting destruction activities

3. Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten mbH (GEKA mbH), the designated destruction facility at Munster, Germany, completed the destruction of the 2-chloroethanol in Incineration Plant 1 ("Munster-1") on 17 December 2016.

4. A team from the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") inspected GEKA mbH from 23 to 27 January and reported that, as at 20 January 2017, 238.655 metric tonnes, or 100% of the tributylamine had been destroyed. This destruction was accomplished using the afterburner of the plasma arc system. No problems were encountered with the destruction process.

5. GEKA mbH informed the Secretariat that, due to delays in obtaining the final approvals for the neutralisation system, destruction had begun using the incinerator at Munster-1. The first tank to be processed contained a mixture of PCl_3 and $POCl_3$, as determined during initial sampling. This tank presents fewer hazards due to the combination of chemicals. The contents will be fed slowly into the incinerator to prevent damage to it, and the feed rate will be increased based on the reaction. Samples from the remaining tanks indicate the contents as PCl_3. GEKA mbH will continue to pursue the required permits and will change over to neutralisation upon receipt of the approvals.

6. Secretariat personnel will travel to Germany to conduct an inspection at GEKA mbH from 27 to 30 March 2017, and will be accompanied by two observers from the Libyan National Authority. Observations from the inspection of the destruction activities will continue to be included in the monthly updates.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Libya

7. The Secretariat inspected the destruction operations at GEKA mbH between 23 and 27 January 2017. The Secretariat inspection team confirmed that all monitoring equipment in place for the purposes of verification is functioning as intended.

8. The Secretariat will continue to discuss with GEKA mbH the timelines for the incineration and neutralisation of the remaining chemicals during the next inspection.

9. As previously reported, the Secretariat was informed that during decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility, one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. The OPCW Laboratory has completed an analysis of the sample received from Libya, which was taken from the tank in question. In addition to determining the composition of the sample, the Laboratory was requested to ascertain whether the contents of the tank could be regarded as destroyed, or if residual declared chemicals were still present in amounts that would require the waste to be further chemically treated, as well as if the tank contents presented a proliferation risk.

10. Using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis, both PCl_3 and $POCl_3$ were detected in the sample, in the region of 5% by weight. Observations made during the analysis of the sample indicate a potential means of destruction. The highly viscous mass found in the tank is dissolvable in water, and the chemicals requiring destruction (PCl_3 and $POCl_3$) will hydrolyse to harmless, non-scheduled chemicals.

11. Owing to the levels of the Category 2 chemicals remaining in the container (approximately 5%), the viscous nature of the remnants, and the limited ability to recover any useable material, the Secretariat is in a position to affirm that the material no longer presents a proliferation threat.

12. The Secretariat, with assistance from Canada, will obtain the services of an expert company to assist Libya with the development of a programme and budget for the further destruction of the remaining tank and the clean-up of the Ruwagha tank farm, to include the decanted tanks.

Overall costs and status of the trust fund

13. On 1 August 2016, the Secretariat issued a Note calling for voluntary contributions to the new trust fund for support to Libya (S/1400/2016, dated 1 August 2016). As at 31 December 2016, the trust fund had received over EUR 1.2 million, with contributions having been received from Canada, Cyprus, Finland, New Zealand, and the United States of America. As at 21 February 2017, EUR 414,792 had been disbursed from the trust fund for activities related to the destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. Invoices are anticipated from GEKA mbH for the purchase and installation of verification-related cameras and monitors.

14. The Secretariat is continuing to work with Canada on procuring the services of an expert company to work with Libya on the preparation of a budget for the work related to the disposal of the contents of the remaining tank and clean-up of the decanted tanks at Ruwagha. The European Union has expressed an interest in contributing to this effort. The Director-General would once again like to express his appreciation to those States Parties that have already made or have committed to making voluntary contributions to the trust fund.